

Solid Waste Interjurisdictional Technical Staff Work Group (ITSG)

DRAFT April 16, 2008

King Street Center

Meeting Attendees:

City Staff:

Tom Spille – City of Bellevue
Rob Van Orsow – City of Federal Way
John MacGillivray – City of Kirkland
Stacey Breskin-Auer – City of Redmond
Rika Cecil – City of Shoreline
Kirsten Weinmeister – City of Snoqualmie

County Staff:

Gemma Alexander, SWD
Jennifer Broadus, SWD
Bill Reed, SWD
Thea Severn, SWD
Diane Yates, SWD

I. Review Agenda and Minutes

The draft March meeting notes were approved by consensus.

II. SWD Updates

Intergovernmental Relations Liaison Diane Yates reported that the Regional Policy Committee's (RPC) agenda on April 9th included three solid waste related items: briefings on the Governance Report and the Conversion Technologies Report, and an update on the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (Comp Plan). No formal vote was taken on these items. The informal direction from councilstaff regarding the Governance Report was for cities to begin discussion.

Interim Lead Planner Thea Severn reported that on June 1st the Shoreline Recycling and Transfer Station will start accepting additional recyclables for a fee. Severn will distribute more information at that time.

III. Continued from March ITSG Meeting: WPR Recommendations I: Discussion per MSWMAC direction

1. What options are available for food waste collection/processing, what constraints do current health codes pose, and all things considered, are our food waste goals realistic? In fact, could they be set higher? If so, how high?

The division provided a fact sheet on organics recycling. ITSG members agreed that the fact sheet met MSWMAC's requirements, but would need to be updated with new health code information that will be made public on April 18th.

Regarding constraints imposed by health codes, members deferred to legal counsel. ITSG members noted that cities with existing food waste programs have limited participation and diversion rates. In light of this, members agreed that the 40 percent single family organics recycling goal would only be feasible if all cities:

- offered curbside organics collection with embedded rates,

- weekly collection, and
- additional funding for education programs.

Without these factors, ITSG members felt that a more realistic goal would be 10 or 20 percent. ITSG members agreed that the program costs for organics recycling were not sufficient to achieve the goals, based on current organics programs that are already in place.

ITSG would like to see realistic goals that can be achieved in this planning period.

There was discussion of the factors that can impact organics recycling measurements. ITSG wants to see the methodology the division used to generate the 40 percent goal.

Severn said that the recommendation was for an overall recycling goal, with specific targets set to help achieve the goal. It is possible to achieve the overall goal as long as enough of the targets are successfully met. The division recognizes that some targets may not be met. She noted that the division is receiving different messages from the advisory groups, with ITSG taking a more cautious approach while SWAC and MSWMAC are encouraging the division to be more aggressive.

2. Should mandatory recycling by all cities be considered as a policy?

ITSG members defined several mandatory recycling scenarios:

- Seattle Scenario: Recyclables banned from disposal. Everyone has recycling and garbage service and is required to use it. Involves enforcement.
- Status Quo Scenario: Garbage subscription is not mandatory. Subscribers are required to pay for recycling, but are not required to use it.
- Alternative Scenario: Everyone has recycling service, but garbage service is not required. This scenario could include free recycling service or paid recycling service.

ITSG members agreed that these scenarios should be considered, in order to address the primary concern of how to best expand curbside recycling collection access and participation.

Several members felt that the Status Quo Scenario would be the preferred option and that the Alternative Scenario with free recycling would not be feasible. The division will look into this topic further and bring it back to ITSG.

Severn said that if curbside recycling service was universally available, it could be possible to not take them at transfer stations and have more room available for harder to recycle items.

3. Are the goals and dates in the presentation appropriate for each category?

ITSG did not discuss this topic separately from the organics conversation.

4. Add waste prevention goals for each category and how that would be measured.

ITSG members noted that waste reduction is influenced by economics, social consumerism, and manufacturer packaging, all of which is beyond the program scope of local or regional programs.

ITSG members commented that the only way to measure waste prevention is through waste generation data. ITSG agreed by consensus that due to the difficulty of obtaining waste prevention measurements, and the international nature of waste generation, program influence is limited to product stewardship programs, and goals should be limited to outcomes of things that can be controlled. Waste generation should continue to be monitored. Specific language to this effect will be prepared for the ITSG report. There was consensus that programs should focus on specific materials, for example phone books, because it is possible to have an influence at the local level.

Severn stated that several of the division's existing recommendations address waste prevention, and should be reworded to highlight that fact. Also, existing waste prevention activities will be made more prominent.

Next Steps:

ITSG member Rob Van Orsow volunteered to give the ITSG update at the May MSWMAC meeting.